THE MERIDIAN
SWAVESEY

No. 185 August/September 2020

Notice of AGM

Wednesday 14th October 2020

Swavesey Memorial Hall 7.30pm

Please come along to our Annual General Meeting and help support Swavesey Festival 2022!

This is your chance to help celebrate our village; our residents and our community by getting involved with planning a Festival Event in 2022 which will be great fun for everyone!

EDITORIAL

We are back! After a break due to Covid 19 we are back in print again. This issue should have had reports on the Swavesey festival but sadly it was a victim of the virus. However there should be something in this issue to interest you and details of clubs and societies that hope to be back by September. It is probably worth checking before you go - contact details in your Meridian.

We try to give you up to date information and contact details but depend on the clubs/societies to LET US KNOW if there are changes of email /contact details.

As your editor it is very frustrating to send out reminders and have the mail bounce back because someone has forgotten to tell me the changes! Help me to help you.

I know a lot of you use Facebook but many do not and you can refer back to The Meridian easily whereas scrolling through days of social media chat can be very tedious!

A vote of thanks to our lovely team who deliver your magazine we do appreciate your help.

Talking of help thank you to all of you who have helped others in whatever way you could be it practical; or just saying hello to someone when you were out for a walk - even if you were 2 metres away!

Deadline for the Oct /Nov issue is **20 August** please.

Editor

Cover Image - Poppies on Longstanton Roundabout by Edwin Parish

Inside Front Cover - Festival AGM

Inside Back Cover - Tawny Owlet by Edwin Parish

Back Cover - Allotment Produce Sale

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We must say a massive "THANK YOU" to all those who took part in Swavesey Together during the lockdown. We are so fortunate to live in a village that is always willing to help us when we need it.

We also wish to thank the various businesses and shops who organised deliveries to those shielding and in lockdown.

Ladies, Gentlemen and helpers you are all stars!

Major Events List

This list is intended to avoid major events clashing on the same day. It will only work if we are advised of all such events, so please let us know as soon as you can confirm the details.

A form is available at the back of this magazine. We will list them in this section of the Magazine and also on our website at www.swaveseymeridian.org.uk

Saturday 19 September	St Andrew's Church	Eco Fair
Saturday 28 November	St Andrew's Church	Advent Craft Fayre
Friday 4 December	St Andrew's Church	Theatre Production: The Snow Queen

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

July		
Thursday 30	Refuse Collection	Green & Blue Bins
August		
Thursday 6	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection
Thursday 13	Refuse Collection	Green & Blue Bins
Thursday 20	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection
Thursday 27	Refuse Collection	Green & Blue Bins
September		
Friday 4	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection (Note Friday)
Thursday 10	Refuse Collection	Green & Blue Bins
Thursday 17	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection
Saturday 19	St Andrew's Church	Eco Fair
Thursday 24	Refuse Collection	Green & Blue Bins

GREEN IS BEAUTIFUL!

When is a grass verge not a grass verge? Answer when it is part of somebodies front garden!

Many properties in the village have a large open grass area in front of them, not all of these are public space but they ARE the property of the owner of the house!

So please respect these spaces, owners often do not want to fence them off as they enhance the appearance of the whole area.

Thank you.

CLUB REPORTS

Swavesey Camera Club

We are looking forward to a new season starting on Thursday 3 September at 7.30pm. After a season of excellent photographs and presentations at the club, meeting at Swavesey Village College, the future way the club meets is less certain. The club is expecting to have few if any physical meetings indoors before Christmas due to the pandemic. This is subject to review and we will continue to have outings to interesting places together to take photographs. The club has been holding successful meetings on-line, where cheery and warm comradeship are on full display despite not being in the same room. Photography is well suited to on-line meetings and presentations and our members have thoroughly enjoyed seeing each other's work this way, as well as learning from accomplished photographers from other parts of the UK.

If you would like to come and see for yourself the first evening is free to non-members, and £4 a visit on other evenings. Beginners are welcome, as well as more experienced photographers. The first event of the season is the Welcome Night when you will get a taste of what the club has to offer as well as a chance to find out more about photography.

Join us online Swavesey Camera Club on Thursday 3 September to learn more about the exciting world of contemporary photography by contacting our President, Richard Harrison, richardharrison340@gmail.com, for an invitation to the first on-line meeting, or go to our website https://swaveseycameraclub.co.uk/ for more information.

Swavesey Festival 100 Club

Three winners each month receive £60 or £30 or £15.
To take part in this popular competition phone
Gill Hurst 01954 200470. Latest winners are;

	First prize £60	Second prize £30	Third prize £15
March 20	Gill Hurst	Geoff Green	Neville Tait
April 20	Brian Dye	Marie Dickman	Nick James
May 20	Nick Richards	Pam Stevens	Lucy Fairweather
June 20	Jason Dear	Grahame Dawson	Jodder Hodson

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WI News

Members and guests last met in March and shared a fun evening together learning about hats and fascinators with our guest speaker who brought along plenty of examples. Little did we know that this would be our last meeting for months, but it has given us something to reflect on as we face a long period of time without our group.

Swavesey W I has about forty members, most of whom live in Swavesey but some join us from surrounding villages, women of all ages who just enjoy being together one evening a month and sharing some time. We are now keeping in touch with each other with 'phone calls and a newsletter as well as information and updates from our central office in Girton. These ways of keeping us all connected are very welcome, but nothing beats walking around the village for our daily exercise and meeting a friendly face from W I to just have a chat with. That is the great thing about the W I, we get to know other women who share our lives in Swavesey, who we probably would not get to meet in any other setting, and it definitely helps us to feel less isolated.

During this time when we speak to each other, the question is "what have you been doing?" and the answers prove what a versatile group we are. Sorting out photos, doing craft work, helping with home schooling over Zoom (who would have thought it!) decorating, cycling, and one member has taken up the challenge of the NHS Couch to 5K programme, something that speaks for itself, the challenge and the success of which has driven her through these difficult times. Like others we have been part of cancelled weddings, big birthdays, holidays and the birth of new grandchildren, but we are resourceful, and keep busy, keep speaking to each other, and somehow the time passes.

When we can, Swavesey W I will meet again and have a big party, we party a lot! We will reconnect with each other and reflect, and hopefully be able to congratulate ourselves for keeping going, supporting others, trying new challenges and looking to the future when we can all get together again.

The notice board outside the Memorial Hall will advertise our next meeting, and visitors are always given a warm welcome, we hope to see you!

To learn more contact Linda Saunders 01954 201162 or
Deirdre Burgess 01954 230897

SWAVESEY SPEAKERS: ONLINE MEETINGS, VISITORS FROM AFAR AND WORKSHOPS!

We have been running our meetings on Zoom which has proved a popular way to meet until the Memorial Hall reopens. If you are interested in visiting the club, now is the ideal time from the comfort of your own home – email for the joining details!

With more demand for online meetings for work and socially, meeting online has been the ideal opportunity for members to hone their public speaking skills by building aspects of Zoom software into their talks (e.g. the use of virtual backgrounds, audio set up and screen sharing) as well as practising how to present online. It's about communicating in a different way: have you considered how you are positioned in front of the camera? Do you feel confident with the software? Members also share experiences and give feedback on other aspects of presenting online, such as tips to get you used to talking to the camera when presenting (and not the screen…). Some of our members have used the opportunity to learn more about online meeting software, run webinars and have organised and presented at online events.

There have been many unexpected advantages to being online. Swavesey Speakers is only one of many Toastmasters International clubs in the UK, and local clubs join together to host speech contests every year. These are great fun and we held the International Speech and Evaluation contests at the end of March. Due to the lockdown, we had to hastily arrange what turned out to be one of the first online speech contests on Zoom in the UK and we welcomed members from across the UK, Ireland and further afield – one member joined us from the Caribbean! It was the start of something special, with members connecting with others and attending meetings across the world.

We are developing lots of ideas for activities in the club including planning a workshop programme for members which will start in August on effective feedback, how to use the education programme to reach your public speaking goals and how to memorise your speech. We are investigating running 'hybrid' meetings, where members can join in person and online for the same meeting, once we are back to normal allowing those who cannot attend in person every meeting to stay involved - watch this space!

In Toastmasters clubs you follow a self-paced learning programme called Pathways which is designed to increase your confidence and skills when speaking to an audience. There are 11 of these projects or 'Paths'; some focus on planning and leadership skills, others on presentation mastery and humorous speaking. Each 'Path' has five levels and most of our members have completed Level 1, with one super keen person on Level 3! You can access the first speech, the Ice Breaker, on from the Toastmasters International website (https://bit.ly/2SZdgGv). There is no rush to get working on speeches, you are welcome to attend meetings and join in when you are ready. **Feel free to get in touch if you'd like to attend an online meeting – we will then send you details to join the meeting.**

Swavesey Speakers are a Toastmasters International (www.toastmasters.org) club that meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Huntingdonshire Speakers meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6.30pm (for 7pm start) at The Golden Lion Hotel in St. Ives.

There are also clubs in Cambridge and Peterborough and beyond, check here to find them: https://www.toastmasters.org/find-a-club.

If you are interested in Swavesey Speakers or Huntingdonshire Speakers, contact:-
Faye on 07908 443610, swaveseyspeakers@gmail.com
or visit www.swaveseyspeakers.toastmastersclubs.org.

We are also on Facebook and Instagram if you want more information and to see photos of our meetings: https://bit.ly/37FzHpu.

Swavesey RADSOC

"Our next pantomime is in January"

"Oh no it isn't!"

"Oh yes it is!"

"Oh no it isn't!"

"Oh yes it is!"

We just don't know!

All our lovely cast and crew are looking forward to the time when they can start rehearsing again for another public performance. At the time of writing we don't know when that can be, but we may have more news by the time this goes to print. We have already postponed our June production of "Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders" by Derek Webb. We hope to be able to do that one in May or June next year. If you'd like to get involved in any of our productions, or just want to know when and where we will be performing, please look us up on Facebook (@swaveseyradsoc) or see our website swaveseyradsoc.org.uk or leave a message on 07504552870.

Martin Avery

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HALE ROAD ALLOTMENT NEWS

The allotments have benefited from the pandemic.

If there is one good outcome of the coronavirus pandemic it's the state of the plots on the site. Following advice from the government and the National Allotments association we were able to keep the site open during the lockdown. Allotment cultivation was seen as good for exercise and mental stability. At the onset a strict guidance on safe working was published and a notice posted at the entrance. These included safe distancing, not lending tools out, closing the toilets and instructions on protecting hands while opening and closing gates among others. I would like to thank all plot holders for sticking to that guidance.

Consequently many of the plot holders were able to put in more time than they would normally have available and with the exception of one or two plots the site is looking the best it's been since we started. Unfortunately I was being shielded due to an underlying health problem but several of the plot holders helped me out with weeding and watering. It was a relief to find a clean plot when I was eventually released.

There were some issues this spring, a late frost caught a few early potatoes, allium leaf miner attacked the spring sowing of onions but seemed to prefer a certain variety, autumn sowings of onions and garlic were not touched. The hot weather in May brought the black fly out early on the broad beans and many of us had to resort to spraying to save the crop.

The crops at this early stage are looking healthy and we are happy to announce that the produce sale will take place once again this year but with a few changes. The date is the fifth of September and it will be open from 10am to 3pm. The venue has changed because we are not sure if the allotments can be opened to the public then and so we will set up a stall in Market Street. I would imagine that social distancing will still be in place but we will adhere to whatever the government advice is at the time. We are only operating on Saturday as we have found Sundays have been very quiet.

The supply of soil conditioner has been resumed following the re-opening of the green bin treatment centre and this has been welcomed by new plot holders who have taken over a plot that had been neglected for a while. This winter and spring we have had 4 new members and a couple on the waiting list who have dropped out, so at the moment that list is not too long. If anyone is interested in taking on a plot this would be a good time to get your name down and details can be found in the clubs section of the magazine. Allotment gardening is not for everyone but those who take it on find a rewarding, tasty and social hobby even if it is two metres apart.

Russell, chairman.

Swavesey Spartans Report

All matches and training have been stopped from March until at least September possibly later in the year.

The Football Association has announced in June that small sided training can take place for groups of five or less, Spartans have decided that we won't start any training until the schools return.

Just as the pitch on the green was looking the best it's looked for many years Covid 19 struck.

Swavesey Spartans and Swavesey Institute (The Men's team) have been successful in receiving a £2500 grant from the Football Foundation which will help cover the cost of more pitch maintenance.

Hopefully, by the time you read this report we will be back playing football in the village?

Best

Gary Peet Swavesey Spartans Chairman

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****If you would like to use the `Swavesey Loan Service' please email/phone Richard94.hart@virgin.net / 01954 202707 or Doughuntuk@yahoo.co.uk / 01954 232478**

Swavesey Community Orchard

The Swavesey Community Orchard (SCO) has been established on Church Green at the north end (Church End) of Swavesey, opposite Swan Pond. The land is owned by the Ford family. The late Dr Allan Ford, Swavesey's GP from 1946 to 1973, held his surgeries at the Manor House. A 25-year lease has been established with Dr Allan's son, Richard, funded by Swavesey Parish Council, on behalf of SCO. SCO has undertaken to manage the field and the road boundary hedge.

On November 19th there was a very enthusiastic turnout of nearly 100 villagers, including many families and their children, to plant the first 40 fruit trees. The trees, which include apples, pears, plums, gages and one quince are all heritage varieties, most of which had been grown in East Anglia over the previous 150 years. The trees were funded by Orchard East, an organisation funded by the Heritage Lottery. The trees have been planted in the format of a traditional orchard – vigorous rootstocks and standard spacing – one of the requirements for the funding.

On December 15th, villagers turned out again to plant 500 daffodil bulbs in swathes alongside the public footpath. Despite the relatively late planting date, most of the bulbs emerged to provide a wonderful display of colour earlier this year. This has been followed up by a superb display of buttercups which were not seen when the field was closely grazed by horses.

Swavesey Community Orchard was officially constituted at its first AGM held on the 14th March. A committee was elected to manage the Orchard on behalf of the village.

The aim of SCO is to maintain and develop the orchard for the benefit of Swavesey residents, visitors, and wildlife and to encourage community involvement of families, schools, and children's groups. The scope of the orchard will be expanded to include a wildflower meadow, a pond, and other environmentally friendly projects. The wildflower project started this spring with villagers being given the opportunity to germinate, and grow as plugs, a range of wildflowers seeds specifically selected for the soil type and ecology of the field. Planting of these plugs has already started although the current extremely dry conditions of early June is posing a serious challenge to their successful establishment and to that of the fruit trees. It is intended most of the field will be cut once only in the late summer to maximise habitats for invertebrates, birds, and small mammals. Paths will be maintained for access.

Welcome back to Fen Drayton Lakes

In troubling times many of us take solace from the natural world and garner great joy from being outdoors where worries and fears can be forgotten for a time. There is nothing like the joyous sound of birdsong or the sight of a parent bird feeding it's fledged young to soothe the soul.

With 16km of footpath around 11 water bodies, we are proud that Fen Drayton Lakes has provided comfort to people over the past few months. Although our Moore Lake hide remains closed for the time being, the rest of the reserve is open and full of life. Birds are singing, bees are buzzing, butterflies are fluttering, crickets are chirping and dragonflies are flying back and forth patrolling along the ditches.

When visiting the nature reserve, please continue to follow the guidance on signage and advice from our staff. This includes maintaining social distancing, keeping to the designated footpaths, keeping dogs under close control and picnicking in designated areas.

We'd like to thank our visitors for remembering to take their rubbish away with them and take the opportunity to remind everyone that camping, open fires and BBQs are not permitted on the reserve.

Fen Drayton Lakes remains devoted to its wildlife and its visitors for the quiet enjoyment of nature and the wonderful riverside landscape.

We hope you continue to enjoy, discover and explore.

Get involved….

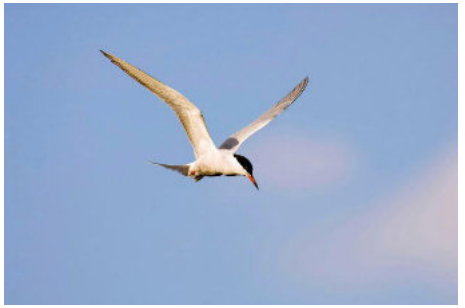
Events

Under current circumstances, we are not running any events at present.

Volunteering

Whatever your interests are, there is likely to be a volunteering role to suit. For information about volunteering opportunities at Fen Drayton Lakes, please get in touch.

Email: fendraytonlakes@rspb.org.uk
Phone: 01954 233260



Common tern - David Tipling (rspb-images.com)

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MISCELLANY

Where I grew up.

Part 1, The Blitz starts in London

Dave Branchflower was born in Chingford and lived there for most of his life, married there in 1963 and remained until 2004 when he moved to Bishop's Stortford. He often goes shopping in Cambridge. However, he still has clear memories of living in Swavesey long, long ago for nearly six years and kindly contacted The Meridian with the story of his early life here. Part 1 below sets the scene.

I was born in March 1938 in Chingford, an Essex town on the north east borders of London. It was adjacent to Epping Forest and the Lea Valley. Today it is part of the greater London Borough of Waltham Forest. How come I was in Swavesey in 1940?

My very first memory is of being held in my parents' arms and they were very agitated and worried. They were looking out, down the garden, at a bright red glow in the night sky on the horizon. The date was probably the 8th September 1940, when I would have been two and a half years old.

The previous night, the German Luftwaffe had launched firebombs against the Port of London and the East End. All the docks and warehouses were consumed in flames. Ships and barges were on fire, drifting dangerously against jetties and quays. Emergency services were unable to quench the fires, which could be seen over 12 miles away. This continued the next night and was the scene my parents were watching, and London was defenceless.

In 1939 a register was produced by the Government to discover who was who in the country, what they were doing towards the war effort, who would need an identity card and a ration book etc. This mini census showed that only my father was living in Chingford at that time. Where were the rest of the family? We had joined the large percentage of the population, who had fled from the cities, when war was declared and were living with my aunt in Cherry Hinton.

When Hitler did not really bomb the cities at the start of the war, many returned to their homes. This was the reason my parents were looking at the inferno a year later. Again, my mother, my maternal grandmother, my older sister and me left home to go to my aunts at Cherry Hinton.

My next memories were living in Swavesey, where my father had rented a large property called Stanton View, at number 10 Boxworth End almost opposite Ramper Road and directly opposite George Burling, the blacksmith. This was to be our

home for the next six years. Previously this had been a farm as many sheds, barns, etc remained. Some were used as storage for furniture by Prime Godfrey, a carrier, furniture remover and haulage contractor from St. Ives.

The house was cold and bleak with four bedrooms, a bathroom, two reception rooms, a kitchen, a larder and cold store and a scullery. The bathroom was sparse with no hot water and a chemical toilet. Water was pumped up from a boiler in the scullery or was heated in saucepans over a range in the kitchen. We spent most of our time, especially in the winter months in the kitchen around the range.

Since then it appears an extension has been added at one side and to the rear. While the scullery and larder/cold store has been converted into a study, lobby and second bathroom – no doubt with hot running water! I expect there is also central heating, so the present occupants don't have to go to bed in socks, gloves, sweaters and a hat to keep warm in the winter months!

This move was a big change for my parents. My father was seconded to the timber control section of civil service. He worked in London during the week and came home most weekends. Sometimes he caught the last train to Cambridge on a Friday night and then walked to Swavesey. No lights and no cars to give lifts in those times! My mother adapted to this change in life well. She had been a shorthand typist for a newspaper in Fleet Street.

In Part 2 Dave will tell us about life as a youngster in Swavesey.

Dave Branchflower

Blankets and Beef

The Rev. Thomas Lushington was appointed Vicar of Swavesey in 1885 and remained vicar for ten years. In 1886 he started a blanket club by which poor people, for the sum of one shilling (5 pence today), could have a blanket from November to May. If returned in good condition, sixpence (now 2½ pence) of this was refunded with the rest being retained for laundering ready for the next year. Some of the local farmers used to hire four or five of these at a time to lend to their workers free of charge.

During those ten years he also made an annual gift of beef to the poor and needy in the village at Christmas. It was during his time in Swavesey that a new organ was installed in St Andrew's church and the clock, which was presented by George Long, was fitted in the tower.

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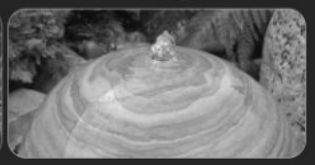

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MEDIEVAL SWAVESEY. Introduction. (Part 1 of 5)

Medieval Swavesey – some excerpts from the folder of information Dorothy Bamber Gilbert compiled when she taught at Swavesey Primary School from 1973 to 1988. Dorothy lived in Swavesey Vicarage when her husband, Harry Bamber, was the Vicar of St. Andrews church. One of her interests has always been medieval history so she decided that the children should learn something about their village. So, Medieval Swavesey became the summer term project with the older children. This meant that the pupils could go out into the village to do some investigations and relate words to actual sites. We sent our chief reporter to interview Dorothy and to select chapters and snippets from her notes which we thought would interest Meridian readers.

The Domesday book (1086) spells the settlement as Swaveseye but 200 years later in 1266 it is recorded as Svaviseye. Soon after, in 1314 it is listed as Swaveseye and Swafsey and then in 1316 as Swavsey. Swaef is the name of a West German tribe and it is known that a tribe from that area rowed up the Great Ouse and landed here before the Norman Conquest. Eye or Ey or Ea is the Norse for an island or a landing place. Thus, Swavesey probably refers to a site where the Swaef tribe landed on an island at the edge of the Fen. The island is the site of St Andrew's church today which stands on a gravel bank that would have been surrounded by water at that time.

NORMAN CONQUEST

Before the Norman Conquest in 1066 the Manor of Swavesey was owned by Edeva (Edith the Fair), the wife of King Edward the Confessor. The Manor also included Fen Drayton, Arrington, Barham, Bassingbourn, and others locally as well as extensive lands in Norfolk where she mostly lived. William the Conqueror took all of her property as soon as he could after the Conquest and set about dividing the confiscated land and handing it to his most loyal or favourite Norman noblemen who had assisted him at the Battle of Hastings. He also handed manors to his closest relatives and Swavesey was given to one of his sons-in-law, Alan or Alain de la Zouch(e), Viscount Rohan of Little Brittany in France (Lord of Richmond from 1071. He was also known as Alan le Roux, Alan the Red because of his red beard. The fact that Swavesey was handed to his son- in- law indicates that Swavesey was firmly viewed as an extremely valuable piece of real estate.

Travel by water was the easiest way of moving large amounts of goods fairly quickly. Almost certainly, the close proximity of a major watercourse, the river Great Ouse, which would allow links to the North Sea, Europe and beyond was one of Swavesey's biggest attractions and of great value. Count Alan (Alain) quickly set about building a Priory in the field north of the present church. He seems to have started it by the time of the Domesday Book in 1086. It is not mentioned in the Domesday Book, but there is a note that the MONKS of SWAVESEY held 3 hides in (Dry) Drayton under Count Alan. A hide is the area of land large enough to support a family, so, could vary.

The Priory was built from limestone blocks collected from a long existing quarry at Barnack just south of Stamford. The building blocks were loaded on to barges and taken down the river Welland, across the Wash, then up the Great Ouse to the river bank near Swavesey where they were loaded on to smaller craft and taken along

a canal to an unloading bay at the edge of the Priory building site. The route of the canal can still be seen in the fields today.

POPULATION

The Domesday book lists the population as 351. By 1327 population was recorded as 576, whereas in 1377 it was lower at 507, probably because the Black Death in 1348/49 markedly reduced the village's population.

The Domesday Book also lists the number of villagers with ploughs, the area of meadow for farming livestock, the financial value of the land and notes that harvesting eels from the marsh was important. Swavesey's population today, in 2020, is around 2,700.

A14 UPDATE

You will have noticed the A14 is now open to traffic but it is far from finished! We still have traffic lights; speed limits and road closures so what is going on?

To find out go to the Highways England's website www.highways.gov.uk or look at their Facebook and Twitter pages.

If you wish to speak to them phone 0300 123 5000 or email A14CambridgeHuntingdon@highwaysengland.co.uk

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Overcote River Bank and Park Enhancement

Over Parish Council is delighted to say that with grants awarded from FCC Communities Foundation and Cambridgeshire County Council, it can enhance the Overcote riverbank and park area this Summer, to benefit locals and visitors from beyond. FCC Communities Foundation is a not-for-profit business that awards grants for communities through the Landfill Communities Fund; the County Council supports villages through the Community Capital Fund.

A tremendous thank you must go to all the village families, groups, clubs and organisations that supported the grant bids to our two funders, which have generously awarded the grants. Without your letters, emails, posts and photos, with permissions, we would not have submitted strong applications. The Parish Council looks forward to seeing even more activities and enjoyments at Overcote, following the improvements to facilities.

The grant will allow the Parish Council to install, for all abilities :

- a new stronger slipway to replace the current broken one. It will have a less slippery surface, making it safer for launching boats and for use by open-water swimmers and triathletes

- a new gravel-beach area with reinforced river bank, for safer and easier canoe and kayak access to the river; and picnics when the grass areas may be wet
- a new grass-infill path from the gravel beach area to two fishing platforms, for accessible viewing of the river and fishing
- a new parking area, so that vehicles may avoid the grass areas
- replaced roadway, with the addition of a passing place

Given the improvements to the slipway, 'beach' and paths, the Parish Council has budgeted using some reserves and precept to replace the very badly worn roadways, using Supreme Concrete Tuff Turf. To keep the precept at reasonable levels, the roadway from the floodbank to the slipway will be replaced this year. The remaining roadway and turning circle will be tidied up this year, too, to be replaced with Tuff Turf next year.

Supreme Concrete Tuff Turf was selected, following consultations, with gravel infill, for a natural appearance to blend with the landscape. Tuff Turf prevents erosion of soil due to traffic, water and wind, easily drains - given flooding of Overcote - and has load bearing strength for vehicles, water craft and mobility vehicles. The high quality concrete composition and sub base is a highly durable, sustainable building technique, installed with top height to not impede mowing of the grass areas.

A big thank-you must go to BSSR Ltd for all their help with the grant bids, following a competitive tender. BSSR Ltd commenced work in early May, following advice from the Environment Agency to not impact the fish spawning season, and hopes to complete in early July. Public access will be possible at Overcote, but safety restrictions will be in force during the contractor's work.

The Parish Council very much hope that following removal of Covid-19 safeguards, the enhanced site can be formally opened on Summer Bank Holiday, Monday 31st August, with a celebratory party, river and park fun competitions for villagers and clubs to enjoy. When safeguards have been lifted, the Council will contact local clubs and groups to arrange the celebration.

A very big thank you again to everyone who helped with this project.

The photos show work to date.

Where I grew up. Part 1

I was born in Forty Hill – a village close to Enfield in the county of Middlesex. My parents married in June 1940, when my mother's length of service with the Telephone Exchange qualified her for a small dowry. As a married woman she lost her job. They were living with her parents who rented a semi-detached house, grandly called Sydney House. Only the relatively wealthy owned their homes. My father had to leave school at 14 despite being offered a place at the local Technical College. He joined a company in Baker Street, London, working up to the position of draftsman/estimator, designing breweries, distilleries and dairies. He decided early on that he wanted to own his own home and put down a deposit on a bungalow. When war broke out, work on such properties was halted for several years. Hence, they had to live with his in-laws.

The house had a large garden where grandad grew vegetables and fruit and kept chickens. The lavatory was outside, although attached to the house. There was no central heating with rooms heated by coal fires when required. The front room was only for special occasions, with the warmest room the back room which led through to the scullery. A large copper was heated up on wash days and a mangle used to squeeze the worst of the water out. There was an Anderson shelter in the garden, but usually, when the siren went off, we slept under the large dining table.

Following my birth in 1941 and my brother's in 1943 accommodation was tight and things became stressful at times especially when my grandmother became ill. At weekends my father would take us children out. He once took us to a football match, but after I pushed my brother in his pushchair under the rail and into the middle of the game, he didn't try that again. He joined the local Home Guard and during the week was frequently fire watching from his London office. He had installed a radio which ran off a huge battery and this had to be wheeled up the road in my brother's push chair to be recharged at a local shop.

His parents lived in a small cottage in Forty Hill, which also had an outside lavatory. Modern soft toilet tissue was unknown and various paper types were used instead. The upstairs was very dark as several windows had been bricked up. There was a very small front garden, but only a yard at the rear with a ladder that led to a field. I was OK with climbing the ladder but had to be rescued when it came to the descent.

Forty Hill had large properties in the area; primarily Forty Hall, built in 1632 for Nicholas Rainton, Lord Mayor of London, and Myddelton House. Forty Hall was then the home of the Parker Bowles family. Myddelton was named after the creator of the New River, opened in 1613 to bring fresh water to London. Edward Augustus 'Gussie" Bowles lived there and gained a great reputation as a plantsman and philanthropist. He started a night school for local boys and allowed them the run of the garden and the river - a trial section of the New River. My father had been one of the Bowles Boys. Being small for his age he was often roped in to help Gussie with jobs such as scrubbing the ancient yew trees or digging out the pond. Now grown up, he still visited the garden taking us along with him.

It was there I learnt to respect paths and flower borders and never to pick flowers. I knew the plants by their 'common' names such as 'Granny's Bonnets' and 'Milkmaids'. In later life I became familiar with the Latin names.

When the war finally ended, there was a large street party with a fancy dress competition. I won a prize dressed as a gypsy selling clothes pegs. We now visited the foundations of our bungalow-to-be and, after several years, we at last moved in and a whole new life began.

Jill Holland, Gibraltar Lane

Radford's Mill, Hale Road, Swavesey

Stand at the entrance gate to the allotments in Hale Road and look 20 metres to your left across the car park where, if you use your imagination, you can just make out a slightly raised area of ground. This is the remnant of the mound on which a wooden post mill used to stand. When the direction of the wind changed, a post mill had to be revolved around its central trestle, using much human strength and determination, to face the sails into the wind using the tail pole, which protruded at the rear, an action called "winding". One extremely windy day in January 1866 the Hale Road post mill blew down causing the two Radford brothers, who were working in the mill at the time, to jump clear for their lives as it fell. Since the 60 current allotment plots adjacent were set up in October 2012, we have had several sheds blown over and countless compost bins, water buts and polytunnels blown around our impressively windy site.

Their father, James Radford, was well aware that Hale Road was a prime site for a windmill and by November of the same year he had built a much more efficient, modern mill, about 300 metres further down on the opposite side of the road.and commissioned it into full working order. This was a much taller tower mill, built with a fixed brick body where the cap and sails are the only parts that turn to face the wind. A fan tail at the back automatically turned the cap and sails to face into the wind. Furthermore, being much taller than a wooden post mill it could hold more grain-processing machinery.

The photograph was taken in the 1920s and is the earliest one in existence. It was one of a series of photographs taken in the village and sold in the post office by Mr Percy Lee who is seen here with the bicycle in a wet Hale Road. Today the mill building is a home and the grounds are the site of The Windmill Kennels and Cattery along with a function hall for weddings, band concerts, private parties etc.

Where I Grew Up

I was born in 1967, at Mill Road maternity hospital, which is now Ditchburn Place. I really haven't moved far at all: Oakington, Comberton, Swavesey; a round trip of 20.1 miles. I think my roots are here in Cambridge; certainly, for the next few years. When we lived in Oakington, we lived in a small cul de sac, which was mostly bungalows and a couple of houses. Most of the children living there were of a similar age to me and my sister Sarah, give or take a few years.

We used to play a lot out on the green in front of where we lived: hopscotch on the pavements, skipping ropes, British bulldog on the green and tag, to name a few. Our bungalow backed onto the old airfield, where we also used to play, not sure we should have, but we never went far. Living in Oakington we had a lovely boxer dog and toy poodle (he lived to be 17!).

When my Dad died, Mum, Sarah and I moved to Comberton to be in the same village as my Grandma and Grandad, as we were only 7 and 4; they were amazing Grandparents and such a huge part of our lives; we were an extremely close family. Living in Comberton for 24 years was great; we had such a happy time

For many years we holidayed in Cromer, sharing a lovely house right where the crab boats came in with very good friends of Mums. We'd go when the carnival was on and lots of other friends from both families would join us, some staying over; lots of fun was had. Huge trays of sandwiches were made for us all playing on the beach; burying each other in the sand; crabbing and lots of games of rounders were played. We also had many holidays in the Peak District, staying at a friend's static caravan in Bakewell; lots of long walks with the dogs with picnics en route, visiting all the lovely surrounding places.

We always had dogs when growing up, another poodle and then Labradors. Sarah and I also had Guinea pigs and rabbits, which ruined the grass in the back garden! I worked at the weekends and school holidays at the paper shop in Comberton; it sold just about everything; if they didn't have it, they would get it in for you; many people in the village had an unofficial 'tab' and were sent a bill at the end of the month, it was a little gold mine. It is now the dentist in the village.

In our teenage years our house was like a youth club; Mum loved having our friends around. When I was at Comberton Village College I met Richard, I was just 15, he was almost 16, the year above me at school. We celebrated our 25th Wedding Anniversary last June (37 years together in December). Mum, Sarah and I all were married at Comberton church.

My first holiday abroad was a school skiing holiday to Italy when I was 13; if I recall it cost about £150, which was so much money for Mum to find.

Rich and I used to go to lots of the local discos: Eversden, Haslingfield, Barrington, Granchester rugby club, and Roneles night club most weekends!!! We still have very good friends from Comberton Village College who we see on a regular basis, although not all live locally now.

Rich and I moved to Carters Way on July 31st, 1997; the 1st house we looked at, the only house we have lived in; I bet not many people can say that. When Elliott was born in 1999 our family was complete, apart from Layla our old red and white boxer dog and now Silvie, the crazy brindle boxer, which she probably will be for another 4 years until the penny drops. We have met some amazing friends and neighbours in Swavesey, who we love to spend time with, which is the main reason we are still here, until Elliott sets his roots somewhere, then we will move to be near him.

Elliott was born at the Rosie in Cambridge, went to both schools in the village and has only lived in Carters Way (see the pattern?) until 2 years ago when he left to join the Royal Navy, as a Weapons Engineer. We struggle with an empty nest and love it when he comes home, however long or short he stays, weekends or holiday breaks.

Liz Errington, Carter's Way

Bike Ride For Charity

We would firstly like to thank everyone who has donated to our cause so far. For those who don't know, we are a trio of cousins - Alex, Luke and Calum - who are riding 660km through the Pyrenees to raise money for Alzheimer's Research UK in memory of our Grandpa, Colin. The original plan was to ride in September 2020, but due to the ongoing global pandemic, we thought it would only be right to postpone our ride for a year. We are glad that we will still be able to ride in 2021! Instead of disappointment we prefer to see opportunity, opportunity that we get to try to raise money for longer for an amazing charity.

Cycling is become more common amongst the population, and we too are increasing our training. Making the most of the recent good weather, we have all been on the bike multiple times a week to increase our fitness as we edge closer to partaking in our cycle ride. We have so far raised nearly £1000 and we hope that this amount will continue to increase as we receive more and more pledges and donations.

If you'd like to donate, you can do so at www.justgiving.com/caluexchf. We look forward to providing you with more updates as soon as we slowly get back to normality.

Kind regards,
Alex, Luke and Calum

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Newsletter article from Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Healthwatch Peterborough

Take new survey about health and care during the coronavirus crisis

How has the covid-19 pandemic and lockdown affected your health and care?

People in Swavesey are being asked to give their experiences in a new survey from Healthwatch Cambridgeshire, the local champion for people who use health and social care services.

The way most services are provided is changing to help keep people safe from Covid-19. So Healthwatch wants to know how this has affected you and those you care and the impact on your mental health and wellbeing.

The survey is online, takes 10 minutes to complete and is anonymous. So you can share experiences in confidence.

What you say goes back to the people running the health and social care system, so they understand what is working well or what needs to change and why.

Like a paper questionnaire? Contact Healthwatch on 0330 355 1285.

Take the survey at:

www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/coronavirus-yourviews

SCHOOLS INFORMATION

Swavesey Playtimers

Tuesday 10-11.30am
In the back room of the Bethel Church, different craft activities, stories and themes each week. £2

Wednesday 10-12noon
At the Memorial Hall, singing with Sharon from 11.15am.
Family with one child, £3.
More than one child, £4.
Under 6 months. £2.

All children under 5 welcome to these term-time toddler groups. Find out what is going on from our Facebook group – "Swavesey playgroups".
A great chance to meet local parents.

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An update from Swavesey Village College

What an academic year it has been for Swavesey Village College!

Like most schools this has been a year of immense learning for us, after the Government announced that schools would close for all students but the children of key workers and most vulnerable families due to the Covid-19 outbreak. However, this difficult time has shown me how fantastic and resilient our staff, students and parents are and I will look back on this time with immense pride in everything we have achieved together.

From stunning artwork to poems that rival Wordsworth, our students have continued to wow with us their talented work during lockdown. To see some examples of what we have been up to during this time, visit our Facebook page by searching Swavesey Village College.

At the time of writing this piece in June, we are working hard to welcome our new Year 6 students into our school community in a very different way than we usually would. We have been creating lots of online resources for them to make this as smooth a transition as possible and hope to welcome them in officially in the near future.

Just before the lockdown, we were very proud to announce that we had been rated Outstanding by Ofsted for the second time. I was very proud to receive the rating as I felt it was an accurate reflection of the hard work and dedication that our staff, pupils, parents and wider community put into the college on a daily basis.

I was delighted that inspectors praised not only our curriculum and quality of education, but described in great detail the support we offer to our students with special educational needs and the highly positive outcomes which our students gain during their time with us.

Although the news of this inspection is still very exciting, we will not be complacent about the result and will continue to strive to ensure that Swavesey Village College delivers the very best possible school experience for all students.

I would like to send all in the community the best of wishes and I hope to be able to welcome you into our school again soon.

Jim Stavrou, Headteacher at Swavesey Village College

Swavesey Rainbows

Swavesey Rainbows were three weeks from the end of term when we went into Lockdown, in those last three weeks, we'd have finished off two badges and said goodbye to five girls moving on to Brownies and those girls would have had a couple of visits to Brownies in preparation. I cried a lot those first few days, then I bagged up the resources we had already bought and then they were collected or dropped off on doorsteps. I broadcast live to my Facebook friends for all of 30 seconds before realising they were not my Rainbows, stopped and started again, this time to the correct group! I showed them how to plant a viola flower which they then passed on as an act of kindness. We did the same the following week showing them how to make a sock penguin, and since then have been using Zoom.

During the 'Easter Holidays' I gave them a Happy Laugh Challenge badge to work on and since then we have offered a mixture of badge work and fun things like a quiz, a scavenger hunt and bingo. Activities have also been emailed home for those not wanting to Zoom, or which were not suitable to do 'live'. Just over half of the unit have been actively involved, and that is absolutely OK, not everyone can manage to fit in Rainbows as well as all the other unexpected things in life at the moment.

I miss our girls and meeting them face to face, but Zoom has been a great stop-gap, and also receiving photos and video from their parents as evidence of badge work has been super at cheering me up and making me smile! Let's all hope we can meet again soon.

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Swavesey Brownies

Swavesey Brownies closed its doors on Monday 16 March and opened virtual meetings on Monday 23 March.

Our first platform wouldn't let enough girls in, so the young leaders quickly reran the meeting activity and videoed it. The following week, we joined the Zoom revolution.

During the first fortnight of lockdown, the Brownies who were willing and able to join in continued their Skills For My Future stage 2 badge. For this, they learned about some common tools used around the home and had a go at using a screwdriver to make a base of string art. They then had a go at using some kitchen utensils to make themselves a healthy snack. Thanks to the parents, the girls had a go at mashing, peeling, cutting and grating.

After Easter, we looked at different jobs and what kind of personality traits you may need for that role. Lots of soft skills were mentioned. This concluded the Skills For My Future badge.

We started a new badge called Communicate stage 2 and a challenge badge called Shoot for the Moon. For Communicate stage 2, the girls learned about voice projection (not shouting) and how to breathe and stand for optimum effect. They learned that not all communication is verbal by drawing pictures of activities they had done in the day, creating a daily timetable in pictures, and drawing a picture to show extraterrestrials what Brownies is all about (this was linked with the Shoot for the Moon activity as we investigated the Pioneer plaques). The girls also looked at how we use gestures to communicate and how gestures don't mean the same thing in all countries. We practised changing the tone, pitch and volume of voice to express our feelings more clearly and later created a collage about a friend after asking lots of questions about them: the girls had to work out who each collage was about using the clues drawn on the picture - whose favourite animal, for example, is the unicorn and also has two siblings?

For Shoot for the Moon, the girls made an obstacle course and used their snow goggles that they had made in the meeting to travel around the course, reflecting how astronauts have to carry out their own repairs, including during spacewalks, by climbing along the outside of the ship. The Brownies made constellation patterns to put over a torch to learn their constellations and also completed a logic puzzle to put the planets in our Solar System in distance order from the Sun. They made and used an astronaut's glove box, which was a bit messy but generated lots of laughs, especially while watching one of the Young Leaders attempt the challenges. The Brownies sowed some seeds in recycled pots, as lots of experiments are done in space, and looked at the word 'thank you' in ten different languages and had a go at pronouncing them, as astronauts come from all over the world and need to be able to speak to one another. Finally, the Brownies tried making a rocket from a plastic drinks bottle and trying to fly it with either vinegar and bicarbonate of soda, or warm water and effervescent tablets.

Since completing these two challenges, we have started to look at exploring our world. Firstly, the girls looked at what they would need in a disaster situation, if they were only allowed to take five items with them. A knife and means to collect water were their top priorities! We have looked at the life cycle of a butterfly and made accordion fold butterflies to decorate our windows (along with the rainbows). We played a matching game and tried to match the fruit or vegetable with when it is in season in England; the Brownies are very in touch with nature and seasons.

What has been so wonderful, in addition to all these activities, is seeing how the Brownies have grown in confidence both with using the technology and actually being at virtual meetings. They are amazing!

The biggest thank you has to go to the parents and carers of our Swavesey Brownies. They make sure their Brownie has all the resources needed for each meeting, they provide a space and the technology to attend the meetings, they help during the meetings and send photos and short videos of any bits that are completed post meeting.

Swavesey Guides

Swavesey Guides has continued to run in a virtual format since lockdown started, we simply meet on Zoom instead of at Bethel Baptist Church. As we were part way through a skills builder called Take Action (stage 3), we carried on with it virtually. The girls had a slogan quiz and a logo quiz to do with their families and were asked to create their own logo and/or slogan for a poster campaign. They also made beaded key rings, with each bead representing an issue they could change, either directly or indirectly. The final challenge for this badge was to think of a campaign they would like to get involved with, then think of all the obstacles stopping the campaign from working, followed by creating an obstacle course, with each obstacle representing a campaign obstacle.

To get used to using Zoom, we did a 'time travel' activity. The Guides were asked to make a paper chain with 'Happy Easter' using felt pens, glue sticks and (scrap) paper and hang the chain from plastic chairs. After five minutes, we jumped back to the 1960s and glue sticks were replaced with sellotape, then 1950s - no plastic chairs or felt pens. Then we travelled back to the 1900s and had to use staples instead of sellotape. Not all inventions make things easier - staples were the best way to make the links. But felt pens were better to write with than a colouring pencil.

After an emailed discussion about what we would do for the summer term, Swavesey Guides worked towards a skills builder called Network and the Shoot for the Moon challenge badge.

For their Network Stage 4 badge, the girls had to do five challenges. They found out about hard and soft skills, assessed their hard and soft skills and thought about how these attributes would help them work in a team. They drew a decision tree to help them learn how to decide what they wanted to do, not what their friends or family expected them to do. The girls used fairy tales to examine relationships, they made paper items to learn how to plan and review projects and finally they looked at setting goals and how to break these down into smaller, achievable goals and making bucket list bunting.

For the Shoot for the Moon Challenge the guides played a couple of ice breaker games based on conditional software programming. The Guides explored our Solar System when looking at the distances of the planets relative to the Sun and each girl looked at one planet in detail and made either an advert, news report, powerpoint or brochure about that planet as if it were a holiday destination. We looked at the idea of synthetic torpor as a way of transporting astronauts on long journeys (and tried to thaw our own frozen astronauts using salt, warm water or mechanical rubbing).

The Guides did a couple of engineering type challenges, when they learned about the modular nature of the International Space Station by making a junk model of the ISS. They also discovered how weight distribution affects the flight of a (paper) aeroplane and had a go at making an astronaut's food pouch with only three materials. We looked at some of the things astronauts would do on the International Space Station, and made an astronaut's glove box to perform some dexterity tests using the box as well as playing the chocolate game over Zoom. We patched some plastics, to emulate repairing spacesuits and space craft, and also filtered water, through various materials, as all water has to be recycled in space. Finally, we upcycled some plastic bottles to make a biosphere and sowed seeds to grow food or experiment on how space affects plant growth.

A couple of Guides also earned their Upcycling Interest badges and one has also earned her Investigating Interest badge. These badges are done independently from meetings.

It has been so lovely to see how the girls are gaining confidence while at virtual meetings. They wave at one another and say hello and are starting to offer one another help and suggestions depending on the activity. It is also wonderful to see the parents (usually just a hand or shoulder) and hearing how supportive they are of their Guide while the girls do the activities. The parents deserve a huge thank you and well done as they continue to enable their Guide to take part in these challenges. And for those who cannot or do not want to join virtual meetings - we miss you so much and are so looking forward to seeing you again.

Scouts
1st Swavesey

Like all other organisations Scouting has had a difficult time during the last 5 months.

We had our last face-to-face sessions just before Easter, and at the time of writing there is still no advice as to when we might be able to resume our sessions. However, this doesn't mean that Scouting has not continued during the intervening time.

Our oldest section, Scouts have been conducting virtual sessions with great success. For Cubs and Beavers, we have decided not to pursue on-line sessions. Many of our young people have taken the unique opportunity as we depart for normality to focus on doing independent badge work. This is especially true for badges we are not able to do within the sessions – for example home based badges such as animal care, home help, DIY and naturalist.

As a significant amount of time has now passed since our last session, and many of our members will have moved up to the next section once we return. This means we will likely have space in all sections for new members. So, if anyone is interested in getting involved in Scouting, now is a brilliant time to contact the relevant leaders to put names down onto waiting lists.

Please note, once we can resume sessions Beavers and Cubs meet consecutively on a Tuesday evening, and Scouts will change to a Monday night.

Beavers (ages 6-8) marian.bentley@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk
Cubs (ages 8-10½) steven.wilson@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk
Scouts (ages 10½ -14) jim.burling@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk

From Your DC - Sue Ellington

Dear All
I hope you are all staying well, Clearly the consequences of the pandemic has thrown all normal activities into chaos but there have been some silver linings to our clouds. The Festival would have been rained off if we had held it on the weekend of the 7/8th June, the weather has been fantastic and the community spirit which has been evident throughout this period has been amazing. I would like to thank Swavesey Together for the way they have risen to the challenge. I know the village has benefited from their organisational skills, deliveries, sorting problems and support - I am sure we will find a way of saying thank you when this is all over.

South Cambs District Council has been working to deliver all the grants which the government has provided for businesses which have been severely affected by the lockdown. I would advise any business who has been contacted to take up any offer of a grant - I am told that if you get a letter - you are eligible ! And if you think you might be eligible but don't get a letter, it is worth asking. The council is also asking businesses to tell them of any other ways the council can help them - I am happy to pass on any comments.

The council is seeking to establish a liaison group in villages which are experiencing significant housing growth. I am sure you will hear more of this in the future as it will involve the Parish Council and interested villagers.

Extra virtual planning meetings are being arranged to help catch up with the backlog of applications to come to committee. The recent judicial review hearings have made everybody much more aware of planning procedures. There has been an issue relating to an application where the deputy leader will be taking the council to court in order to quash the decision so that an application can be determined afresh.

Even though I have been in lockdown I have been able to sort some issues but inevitably it has not been as easy as before. The Byeways continue to cause concern to those who live on them and use them. Unfortunately it has proved impossible to hold a meeting of interested parties but I am pleased that Tipplers has been repaired following Anglia Water's work and Hale Fen has received some work. I know other byways are in need of attention and I have them high on my agenda and I will move things forward as soon as practical.

Council work continues and I seem to spend a lot of time on Zoom or Team talking and listening to briefings about new ways of working and key issues relating to the metro or transport links and the work of The Great Cambridge Partnership. I feel that these transport links will be vital in the future but their actual route does not affect Swavesey. I think we have had our share of disruption for the good of transport links with the A14.

Have a good summer and enjoy the weather, your home and the support of our community.

I am available on sue.ellington@virgin.net or 07774 146331 or 01954 202923.
Sue Ellington
District Councillor for Swavesey ward.

SWAVESEY PARISH

Parish Council News May/June 2020

COUNTY COUNCIL

The PC is aware of many traffic problems in the village, particularly in Ramper Road. The speed indicator device is to be moved to Ramper Road to warn traffic and monitor speeds. Any residents able to volunteer for Speed Watch? Please contact the Parish Council on clerk@swavesey.org.uk if you would like to help with this initiative.

The Coronation Bench on the junction of Boxworth End and Rose and Crown Road is to be taken down, refurbished and re-sited in the village to a more suitable location.

The PC is to submit a Local Highways Improvement bid to the County Highways for two more speed indicator devices.

The PC considered additional traffic calming measures for the village. There were mixed views as to the effectiveness and in view of the high cost and impact on the Parish Council Tax Rate the PC unanimously decided not to proceed with the proposal.

County Highways have been informed of the need to cut back the hedge to the footpath/cycleway along Over Road.

Fen Drayton Road will be closed from 3rd. to 7th August for major road repairs.

It is hoped that improvements to the guided bus car park and provision of a waiting shelter there will be funded from funds arising from the village development sites.

DISTRICT COUNCIL

The surface of Hale Road has been improved and repaired.

COVID 19 – the grant scheme for small businesses who have received rate relief has been well received including the Memorial Hall and Pavilion.

Congratulations to the Swavesey Together Group and all the volunteers who have helped those self-isolating over the last months.

A14 IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

Following a request from a resident the PC is to approach the A14 team to mark the existence of the Trinity Foot Inn and its predecessors at the junction to acknowledge its importance as a wayside inn.

VILLAGE MATTERS

The PC agreed to find a suitable location for the Covid-19 Stone Snake in or near the play area on the village green. The PC received a request to plant a

COUNCIL NEWS

tree as a memorial. The PC is not able to grant such a request, but is able to offer a link to trees it plans to plant in the autumn.

DRAINAGE

Cllr Mr Wilderspin is working with the Middle Level Commissioners and continues to press for action on major drainage works affecting the village.

PLANNING

The PC discussed proposals for Northstowe Phase 3A for up to 4,000 homes and Phase3B for 1,000 homes, both of the developments impact on Swavesey especially on drainage issues. Full details of the discussions can be found in minutes on the Swavesey Web Page.

The PC supported an application from the Trustees of Frere Cottages in Station Road to build an additional two small cottages to the rear of the existing four cottages adjacent to Swan Pond.

The PC considered a number of other planning applications

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Speed watch volunteers are urgently needed especially as many residents are concerned about speeding vehicles.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The PC reviewed a number of Policies, Procedures, Appointments and Statutory Documents as part of an annual review.

Report from The Meridian magazine for the year ending 31 March 2020

Submitted to the Swavesey Annual Parish Meeting 2020

Now in its 32nd year of publication, The Meridian continues to inform Swavesey residents with reports of recent activities and information on planned events by many regularly organised groups such as Camera Club, Spartans Football teams the Women's Institute the churches and Swavesey Speakers as well as news from one-off activities.

With six issues per year the magazine is packed full of information within typically 80 to 84 pages. The Meridian is supplied free to residents with printing costs being paid for by around 75 adverts per annum, some within the body of the magazine and most in the advertiser section. The Meridian Committee welcomes articles from village residents on any subject which might be of interest to the community, especially to residents who are not able to access the web or social media.

Swavesey Parish Council
Website:- www.swavesey.org.uk

Parish Councillors	Telephone	E-mail address
Warren Wright (Chairman)	203172	will.wright48@virginmedia.com
John Pook (Vice-Chairman)	230978	pookjhn@aol.com
Martin Johnston	200605	martin.johnston1@ntlworld.com
Lisa Boyes	232603	windmillkennels@oneservice.co.uk
James Dodson	230560	shirleydodson65@gmail.com
Stuart Faben	07887 906982	stuart@fabenjoinery.com
Hannah Parish	203035	hannah.parish@niab.com
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Doug Hunt	232478	doughuntuk@yahoo.co.uk
Clerk: Linda Miller	202982	clerk@swavesey.org.uk
District Councillor: Sue Ellington	202923	sue.ellington@virgin.net
County Councillor: Mandy Smith Papworth & Swavesey Ward	230248	mandysmith1235@btconnect.com
Memorial Hall Administrator: Nicole Mullee	07963 861791	memorialhall@swavesey.org.uk

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BETHEL
BAPTIST CHURCH

When thinking of what to put in the Meridian this month I am once again met by the reality that plans for the next few months are unreliable at best. As I write this in June, we are currently undergoing preparations to open for personal prayer, however by the time you read this that may have changed. We could be fortunate enough to be open for socially distant services or we could be taking a step back and closing again. So rather than tell you what's coming up, I wanted to focus on what we have been doing through Lockdown.

We have put our services on Facebook, Youtube and Apple Podcasts, including communion, children's talks with Marianne, and family services.

At time of writing, we have enjoyed over 80 Songs of the Day, with the large majority of our congregation, and community having sent in a favourite or two, I think we have all heard something we wouldn't normally listen to!

We have Sunday School material on our updated website each week, along with other resources we think you might find helpful.

Until we can meet again, we will continue to update our Facebook page and website with the latest information.

Do you need prayers?
Someone to talk to?
Have questions?

In times of uncertainty we want you to know that you can count on God, and by extension us as a church. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

David Mann (Minister) – minister@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk
Stacey Alsop (Admin) - admin@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk
John Porter (Secretary) – secretary@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk
Wendy Whistler (Treasurer) treasurer@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk

www.facebook.co.uk/SwaveseyBethel *www.bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk*

LEAVING IN LOCKDOWN

When I announced to the folk at Bethel back in February that I would be leaving to take up a new post in a church in Northfield, Birmingham, I imagined that I was going to have 6 months in which to sort everything out and to say my 'good byes'. Little did I know then that Covid 19 would push us into lockdown and that It would be very unlikely that we would be meeting together at church before I left!

After more than 12 years living and working in Swavesey I had hoped that I would have the opportunity to say farewell face-to-face not only to Bethel folk, but also to the very many people in the village whom I have come to know during that time. Sadly, as I begin to count down the last days to my departure at the end of August, it seems that this is not going to be possible, and so I am restricted to saying 'farewell' to you all here....

Back in April 2008, when I arrived in Swavesey with my family to take up the role of Minister at Bethel, I had no idea just how important this community and the people in it would become to me. From the very beginning we were welcomed with such love and support – especially through Ben's illness and when he died in 2009 – and that same love and compassion is the thing that I will remember and cherish most about Swavesey as I move on.

It has been the greatest privilege to serve as the minister at Bethel and to be able to serve the village in the schools, to work alongside St Andrew's church, to work with the Parish Council, and to be involved in so many different events and activities over the years, and through all of these things to meet and get to know so many people in the village.

Thank you all for your friendship, support and love. I do hope that I will be able to come back and visit some time next year, and to say some farewell's properly without the restrictions of lockdown.

Until then – Farewell....

Every Blessing

David <><

St Andrew's Church News June 18th 2020

As I sit and write this, we have just reopened the church for private prayer for the first time in twelve and a half weeks. We have swept, dusted and cleaned our lovely building (keeping two metres apart as we worked) and we have put away our bibles and children's toys following all the instructions about staying safe. We lit candles on our altars, put flowers in the Lady Chapel and welcomed anyone who wanted to enjoy the peace or talk to God. I hope that by the time you read this magazine, restrictions will have eased and there will be information on the news about the general re-opening of our church.

However, one piece of excellent news I can share with you is that we appointed a new 5 Folds Team Vicar in March and she will be joining the benefice in August. Her name is Lucy Cleland and she has been working as Chaplain at Scargill House, a residential Christian community in the Yorkshire Dales. Prior to Lucy's ordination training at Ridley Hall, she was on the Staff Team at St Barnabas Church, Cambridge as Lay Worker and then Administrator. She served her curacy in Yaxley, Holme and Conington on the north west edge of the Fens before moving south to Waterbeach and Landbeach. We are all looking forward to welcoming her to the 5 Folds Benefice.

During Lockdown, many of our congregation like everyone else have learnt to use new technologies and have been meeting online for a variety of activities including services, craft coffee mornings, Bible study, PCC meetings and Churchwarden discussions. Simon Gill our Rector and other members of our clergy have recorded weekly services which are available online at www.5folds.org.uk/page/simons-sermon-recordings-and-bible-index. Other information about services, contact names and emails and useful links to other church related websites can be found on our Benefice website at www.5folds.org.uk. Useful information can also be found on the Diocese of Ely website at: www.elydiocese.org .

All our normal Church events are on hold at the moment until we have guidance from the government about the use of public buildings but we will let you know when anything changes through our website, social media and our notice boards at St Andrew's.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Nicky Carne and Jacqui Fuller. (Churchwardens)

Community Groups & Charities

Swavesey Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	A voluntary group who meet on the first Monday each month to set out the vision for Swavesey and the planning policies needed to manage development according to the wishes of the local community. See http://www.swavesey.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan/ or Email: clerk@swavesey.org.uk for more information
Cam Sight	Cam Sight is a local charity which offers support to anyone with a visual impairment, along with their family and carers. We meet on the 4th Wednesday afternoon of each month in Bar Hill. For more information please telephone Joan in Bar Hill on 01954 200622 or Alison at Cam Sight on 01223 420033 or email alison@camsight.org.uk. For more info see:- www.camsight.org.uk
Cambridgeshire Hearing Help	CHH is a charity that helps people with hearing loss. Volunteers service NHS hearing aids and provide batteries and they attend Swavesey quarterly at Thistle Green. Advice on any aspects of hearing loss is available at a hearing help session or by calling the office on 01223 416141, e-mail enquiries@cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk or check the website cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk
Care Network	Care Network supports volunteers, encourages independence and develops good neighbour projects. We provide the Welcome Home from Hospital service across Cambridgeshire. Contact:- Care Network, 5 Broadway House, 149-151 St Neots Rd, Hardwick, Cambridge, CB23 7QJ (tel: 01954 211919). care-network.org.uk/
Community First Responder Scheme	The local group in Over and Swavesey has provided help over many hours and attended over 20 patients in your community. You can support the group and help to fundraise for equipment or volunteer to become a Community First Responder within your community. Contact:- responderadmin@eastamb.nhs.uk or call 01284 731802
Swavesey Library	A volunteer run community library based in Swavesey Village College. We are able to providing a full range of library facilities being directly linked to the Cambridgeshire County Council library service. For more info see:- www.swavesey.org.uk/village-link/swavesey-library
The Friends of the Rosie Hospital	The Friends of the Rosie Hospital are helping to make the Rosie a more comfortable environment for mothers and babies. Contact:- Mrs Mary Sanders (Hon Chair) rosieinstitches@ukonline.co.uk Tel 01223 356615
East Anglia's Children's Hospice (EACH)	Put your free time to good use and volunteer at East Anglia's Children's Hospice (EACH) in Milton. Volunteering at a children's hospice doesn't always mean care work and fundraising as there are also tasks such as admin and maintenance of the grounds. Contact:- Clare Bates on 01223 815 134, email clare.bates@each.org.uk
Community Resourcing	We have a small group of local volunteers (local residents from our community) who would like to help other members of our community with any practical tasks. Contact:- Parish Council Tel: 01954 202982 or Email: clerk@swavesey.org.uk
OWLS Community Car Scheme	Run by DBS checked volunteers the scheme offers a door-to-door service, for medical or some social journeys, to people who are unable to access other forms of transport. Ring 07505 254363 to book a journey, find out more, or to volunteer as a driver

CLUB INFORMATION

Army Cadet Force	Swavesey Detachment, No 2 (Cromwell) Company, Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force meets each Tuesday evening at the Swavesey Village College from 7 pm. New recruits are welcomed from ages 12 years (year 8) to 18 years. Contact - Sgt Phill Barrett phone 07786981380
Over District Girlguiding Swavesey and Over	**Unit** / **Evening** / **Contact** Swavesey Rainbows / Thurs / caroline@overroad.co.uk Swavesey Brownies / Mon / swaveseyguides@gmail.com Swavesey Guides / Thurs / swaveseyguides@gmail.com Over Rainbows / Mon & Tue Over Brownies / Wed & Thurs Over Guides / Tue
Swavesey Spartans	Swavesey Spartans are a Chartered Standard Youth Football Club affiliated to Cambridgeshire Football Association. The club runs boys and girls teams from under 6 through to under 17. For information and enquiries please contact Chairman - Gary Peet on 07976 359494 Secretary - Colin Baker on 07976 636771 Club Welfare Officer - Carolyn Merricks on 01954 20497
1st Swavesey Scout Group	All sections meet on Tuesday at the Scout Hut on the SVC site Beavers - 16:45 to 17:45 Contact: Marian Bentley Email: marian.bentley@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk Cubs - 18:00 to 19:15 Contact: Janet Stones Email: janet.stones@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk Scouts - 19:30 to 21:00 Contact: Jim Burling Email: jim.burling@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk For any other Scouting issues Contact: Jim Burling Email: jim.burling@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk
Swavesey Early Years and Playwork Centre	Swavesey Early Years and Playwork Centre are based in their own purpose-built unit on the primary school site. It comprises Early Years children (aged 2 – 4 years) between 9am and 3pm (formerly Swavesey Pre School) and we provide activities and care for primary school aged children before and after school. Breakfast Club runs from 7.30 am to 9am and After School Club from 3.15pm to 6pm. For information please contact Carol Panther (Early Years and Playwork Manager) by email: eyandp@swavesey.cambs.sch.uk or by phone 01954 273312 or 07803 812221.
Swavesey Music School	Meets every Saturday of term time at Swavesey Village College. Only £3.00 per session. For further details see: www.swaveseymusic.co.uk/

Health and Wellbeing Club	A club for older adults which runs on the last Tuesday of the month with the exception of December. The group meets at the Community Centre, Thistle Green, Swavesey from 10.00 to 11.30am. Refreshments, chair-based exercises, speakers and time for conversation. No booking is required and the group is Free.
British Tang Soo Do Institute	British Tang Soo Do Institute practices the Korean martial art of Tang Soo Do. Our club training covers self defence techniques and many aspects of fitness including flexibility, coordination, conditioning, balance and discipline helping to promote a healthy lifestyle. For further information please contact Master Jeff Cockram on 07863 345681 or jeff@btsdi.co.uk or see our website: www.btsdi.com
Swavesey Tang Soo Do Club	Classes are held Monday 18:30-20:00 in the main hall at the Primary School, Swavesey and Wednesday 18:30-20:00 in the Memorial Hall. We are a family run club offering Martial Arts training in a friendly atmosphere. Training is available for all ages from 5 and over. Children, adult beginners, family groups and people with previous martial arts experience are all welcome. Contact Louise Morton on 07711 256512 Email: enquiries@swaveseytsd.co.uk Website: www.swaveseytsd.co.uk/
Allotments in Swavesey	Down Hale Road towards the windmill and on the right there are 61 plots, mostly 150 sq yds (125 m2) in area, backed up by eight water tanks. Large yields of a wide range of high quality vegetable, fruit and flower crops can be grown successfully. If you are interested in joining the waiting list contact Russell Fear on 01954 202846.
British Legion	For information contact:- Chairman - Robert Bond 01954 201645 RBL or robert.bond4@ntlworld.com
Swavesey Badminton Club	Located at the Swavesey Village College Sports Centre.The Club offers a high standard of play at club nights on Tuesdays 7pm to 8pm and on Fridays from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. We play competitive badminton in the Cambridge leagues and run men's, women's and mixed teams.Contact Helen Taylor on 01954 230997 Email: enquiries@swaveseybadminton.net website: www.swaveseybadminton.net
Swavesey Billiards and Snooker Club	For information/membership please contact Graeme Waites (01954 230113) Email graham.waites566@btinternet.com
Swavesey Camera Club	At Swavesey Camera Club we are proud to cater for photographers of all standards. For more information visit our website at www.swaveseycameraclub.co.uk. We meet every Thursday, 7.30 - 9.30pm, Lecture Room, SVC. Non-members welcome - £4 charge (first visit free). For further details please ring John Turner (01954) 202076.
Fenland Squash Club	Located at Swavesey Village College. Swavesey Fenland Squash Club offers team, league and friendly squash matches and has clubnights, tournaments as well as racketball. For details contact Brian Chapman 07982 658614 Jamie Tuffee 07807 968768 Chris Ramsdale 07906 671340 Details of the club including contact details can be found at www.fenlandsquash.co.uk

Over Netball Club	We train on a Tuesday night 7pm till 8.30pm on the outdoor courts at Swavesey Village College. Small friendly club, play in CDNL local league, beginners/ everyone welcome. Cost £3 per session. Contact is Lindsay Foster - lindsayfoster001@gmail.com 01954 202070 or 07543 460725
Swavesey Community Choir	If you enjoy singing and having fun then come and join Swavesey Community Choir. We meet every Wednesday in term time in St. Cecilia's Hall at SVC, from 7.30pm - 9pm. You don't need to be able to read music and no auditions needed, tenor and bass voices particularly welcome. For further details contact Chrissie Richardson 07881 824095.Website: www.swaveseycommunitychoir.co.uk
Swavesey District Bridleway Association	A liaison group representing local horse riders whose main aim is to protect existing and create safe new horse riding links between all local villages. New members welcome. Regular Newsletter/Social events calendar. Please contact Sue Rogers (01954) 232758
Swavesey & District History Society	Meet every third Tuesday in the month, 7.30pm, Global Resources Centre, SVC. Contact Carolyn Redmayne, Secretary (01954) 230037
Swavesey Institute Football Club	New players always welcome, please contact: Phil Baines on 01954 200377 [Saturday sides] or Jerry Ladell on (01954) 201018 [Veterans side].
Linedance	Linedance classes held on Wednesday mornings at the Bethel Baptist Church 9-30 to 11-30 am. Beginners always welcome. Contact Deborah Walker 01954231382 Email: deborahwalker105@talktalk.net
Swavesey & Over Conservation Society	Meet at Bethel Baptist Church, Middlewatch Swavesey CB24 4RP commencing at 7.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month unless otherwise stated. If you need a lift: PHONE: Trevor Grange - 01954 230119 or Pat Miles - 01954 780485. Guests Are Always Welcome!
Swavesey & Over Tennis Club	Club night 1 October to 1 April is on Monday, 7.00 to 9.00pm. From 1 April - 30 September there will be club nights on both Mondays and Wednesdays. We welcome new members from anywhere in the locality. Further information from s.taylor996@btinternet.com www.swaveseyandovertennisclub.btck.co.uk
Swavesey RADSoc	Friendly local drama group staging two or three productions a year.New members always welcome.Contact: Nathalie Balzano: nathaliewoodward@hotmail.com Visit our website at www.swaveseyradsoc.org.uk
Swavesey Speakers	Develop your public speaking skills at this Toastmasters International club. Guests welcome! 1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Memorial Hall from 7pm to 9pm (occasional venue change). More details: www.swaveseyspeakers.toastmastersclubs.org or call/text Faye on 07908 443610.
Swavesey W.I.	We meet every second Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. New members are always welcome to enjoy a variety of invited speakers and have a chat and cup of tea/coffee afterwards. For further information contact Linda Saunders (01954) 201162

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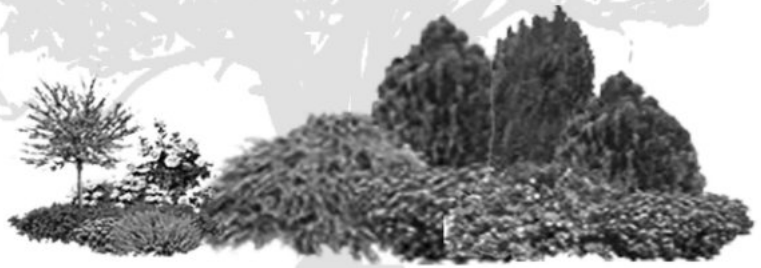

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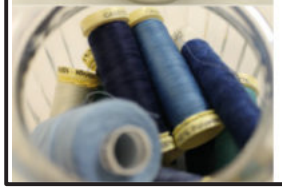

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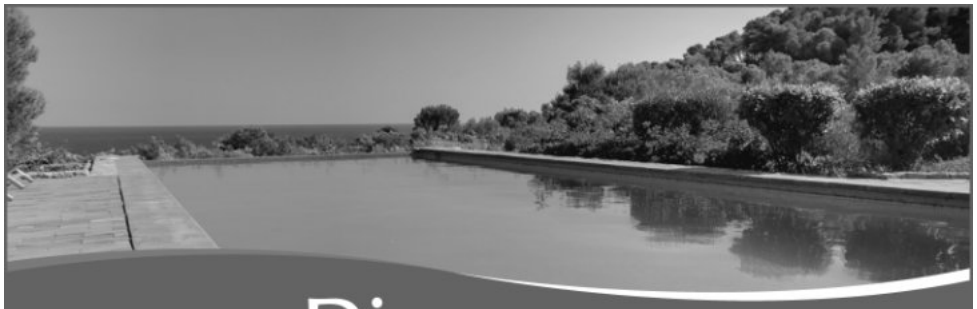

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Location _____ Date _____ Time _____

Contact Name _____ Tel No. _____

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & SPECIAL OCCASIONS

If you would like to mark any occasion that is special to you or somebody that you know by announcing it in this magazine, please fill in the form below.

Also supply your name and contact details, and return to the Editor by the copy date. We will endeavour to include it in our next issue.

SHORT MESSAGE:

_____

_____

_____

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS & WEBSITES		
Doctor's Surgery (Swavesey)	01954-230202	
Doctor's Surgery (Over)	01954-231550	
Police:		www.cambs.police.uk
Emergency	999	
All Non Emergency Calls	101	
Swavesey Neighbourhood Watch	07830 110062	www.swavesey.org.uk/neighbourhood-watch/
Swavesey Pre-school Enquires	01954 273312	preschool@swavesey.cambs.sch.uk
Swavesey Primary School	01954-273312	www.swavesey.cambs.sch.uk/
Swavesey Village College:	01954-230366	www.swaveseyvc.co.uk
Community Office	01954-230373	
Swavesey Post Office	01954-232311	
Cambridgeshire County Council:		www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk
General Enquiries	0345 045 5200	
Library Service	0345 045 5225	www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/libraries
South Cambs District Council	0345 045 0500	www.scambs.gov.uk
Electricity (UK Power Networks):		
Emergencies	0800-7838838	www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk
Gas Emergencies (National Grid)	0800-111999	www.nationalgrid.com/uk/gas
Water (Cambridge Water Company):	01223-706050	www.cambridge-water.co.uk
Sewage (Anglia Water) Emergency	08457 145145	www.anglianwater.co.uk
Environment Agency (Flood Line):	0845 988 1188	www.environment-agency.gov.uk
Incident Reporting Line (pollution etc)	0800 807060	
Samaritans	08457-909090	www.samaritans.org.uk
Addenbrooke's Hospital:		www.addenbrookes.org.uk
Accident & Emergency	01223-217118	
General	01223-245151	
Hinchingbrooke Hospital	01480-416416	www.hinchingbrooke.nhs.uk
NHS Direct	111	111.nhs.uk
Airports + Road & Rail:		
Local Taxi: Alpha Cars	01954 232300	www.alphacarsonline.co.uk
Gatwick	0844 3351802	www.gatwickairport.com
Heathrow	0844 3351801	www.heathrowairport.com
Luton	01582-405100	www.london-luton.co.uk
Stansted	0844 3351803	www.stanstedairport.com
Traveline (Bus Coach & Rail)	08706-082608	www.traveline.org.uk
Transport Direct (Coach, Rail, Flight)		www.transportdirect.info
Local Timetables:		
Cambridgeshire CC Bus Information		www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport
Stagecoach	01223-423578	www.stagecoachbus.com
National Express Coaches	0871 7818178	www.nationalexpress.com
Whippet Coaches	01954-230011	www.go-whippet.co.uk
National Rail	08457-484950	www.nationalrail.co.uk
Veterinary Practices:		
Village Vet (Longstanton)	01954-780027	www.villagevet.co.uk
Ash Croft (Hardwick)	01954-210250	www.ashcroftvet.co.uk

Very fresh, straight from the allotment plots

HALE ROAD ALLOTMENTS FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Plus, lots of jam and pickles too

SATURDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2020

Open: 10 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Our stalls will be selling a wide range of produce

in Market Square, Swavesey

We will be very happy to chat about becoming an allotment holder, growing vegetables and all things to do with the garden.

See you there!